

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (new): A process for transesterification of a fat and/or an oil by means of alcoholysis, comprising adding to the fat and/or oil an excess of an alkanol and at least one alkanol fatty acid ester, wherein a reaction mixture is formed, and further wherein an alkanol fatty acid ester is added to the reaction mixture resulting in a one-phase transesterification of the fat and/or an oil.

Claim 14 (new): The process of claim 13, wherein the alkanol is monohydric alkanol.

Claim 15 (new): The process of claim 14, wherein the alkanol fatty acid ester is selected from the group consisting of methyl esters, ethyl esters and propyl esters.

Claim 16 (new): The process of claim 15, wherein the alkanol fatty acid ester is added in a quantity of between 5 to 50 wt.% of the fat and/or the oil.

Claim 17 (new): The process of claim 15, wherein the alkanol fatty acid ester is added in a quantity of between 12 to 20 wt.% of the fat and/or the oil.

Claim 18 (new): The process of claim 13, wherein the mol ratio of the alkanol to the fat and/or the oil is 6:1 or more.

Claim 19 (new): The process of claim 18, wherein the fat and/or oil reaction mixture contains less than 0.5 wt.% of free fatty acids.

Claim 20 (new): The process of claim 18, wherein the fat and/or oil reaction mixture contains less than 0.1 wt.% of free fatty acids.

Claim 21 (new): The process of claim 13, further comprising adding to the fat and/or oil reaction mixture a soluble catalyst.

Claim 22 (new): The process of claim 21, wherein the soluble catalyst is an alkali metal or an alcoholate of an alkali metal.

Claim 23 (new): The process of claim 13, further comprising adding to the fat and/or oil reaction mixture a catalyst comprised of a metal salt of an amino acid or an amino acid derivative, wherein the metal salt of the amino acid or the amino acid derivative is insoluble in alkanols and in the reaction mixture.

Claim 24 (new): The process of claim 23, wherein the amino acid or amino acid derivative contains a quaternary nitrogen or a guanidino group.

Claim 25 (new): The process of claim 24, wherein the metal salt of the amino acid or amino acid derivative is selected from the group consisting of calcium, strontium, barium, alkaline-earth metal and heavy metal.

Claim 26 (new): The process of claim 25, wherein the heavy metal is selected from the group consisting of silver, copper, zinc, manganese, iron, nickel, cobalt, lanthanum and rare-earth metal.

Claim 27 (new): The process of claim 26, wherein the heavy metal salt of the amino acid or amino acid derivative is a zinc salt of arginine or a cadmium salt of arginine.

Claim 28 (new): The process of claim 13, wherein the transesterification is carried out at a temperature ranging between 80°C to 160°C.

Claim 29 (new): The process of claim 13, wherein the transesterification is carried out at a temperature ranging between 100°C to 150°C.

Claim 30 (new): The process of claim 13, further comprising recirculating the alkanol fatty acid esters that remain behind as bottom products during the transesterification process.

Claim 31 (new): A process for transesterification of a fat and/or an oil by means of alcoholysis, comprising:

forming a reaction mixture by adding at least six times the mol quantity of a monohydric alkanol to the fat and/or the oil;

adding 5 to 50 wt.% of at least one alkanol fatty acid ester;

adding a catalyst;

heating the reaction mixture to a temperature between 80°C to 160°C;

and

recirculating the alkanol fatty acid esters that remain behind as bottom products during the transesterification process,

wherein the process results in a one-phase transesterification of the fat and/or the oil.

Claim 32 (new): The process of claim 31, wherein the catalyst is soluble in the reaction mixture and further wherein the soluble catalyst is an alkali metal or an alcoholate of an alkali metal.

Claim 33 (new): The process of claim 31, wherein the catalyst is comprised of a metal salt of an amino acid or an amino acid derivative, wherein the metal salt or the amino acid derivative is insoluble in alkanols and in the reaction mixture.

Claim 34 (new): The process of claim 33, wherein the metal salt of the amino acid or amino acid derivative is selected from the group consisting of calcium, strontium, barium, another alkaline-earth metal and heavy metal.

Claim 35 (new): The process of claim 34, wherein the heavy metal is selected from the group consisting of silver, copper, zinc, manganese, iron, nickel, cobalt, lanthanum and rare-earth metal.

Claim 36 (new): The process of claim 35, wherein the amino acid or amino acid derivative contains a quaternary nitrogen or a guanidino group.

Claim 37 (new): The process of claim 36, wherein the heavy metal salt of the amino acid or amino acid derivative is a zinc salt of arginine or a cadmium salt of arginine.